TL 5652-8

Fernando de Araujo
for Honorary President of NUS

By getting 100 signatures from 25 colleges any person can be nominated for Honorary President of NUS. There is then a vote on this at the NUS Conference in late March, where a simple majority is needed.

Fernando de Araujo is currently imprisoned in Jakarta Indonesia. He was arrested on 24 November 1991 while Chair of RENETIL, the clandestine organisation of East Timor students and sentenced in March 1992 to nine years imprisonment. His Crime?

" To stir up unrest or anxieties among the population and between the Indonesian state and other countries."

Fernando was a crucial link between East Timor and organisations in the outside world such as Amnesty International. He was also a supporter of self-determination for East Timor. He is an Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience.

Making Fernando de Araujo an Honorary President will convey recognition for his brave struggle against the brutal occupation of East Timor by Indonesia and attract National Press attention to that struggle. It will bring hope to Fernando who is still imprisoned in Jakarta and it will send a message to Indonesia that the outside world will not forget their occupation. One day East Timor will be free again.

For more information read the Press Cutting from TAPOL Bulletin No 110 April 1992, or contact Tapol, the Indonesian Human Rights Organisation at 111 Northwood Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR7 8HW. Tel: 0181 771 2904.

Fernando de Araujo
for Honorary President of NUS

Defendants challenge court's jurisdiction

Thirteen East Timorese are now on trial in Dili and Jakarta. They were all arrested in the wake of the Santa Cruz massacre last November. The trials are being conducted by Indonesian courts but Indonesia is an occupying power whose presence in East Timor is illegal. Two defendants charged for subversion have challenged the court's jurisdiction to try them for upholding their right to self-determination.

When their trials opened in Jakarta on 16 March 1992, the two defendants **Fernando de Araujo**, 26 years old, and **Joao Freitas da Camara**, 37, who face subversion charges for which the maximum penalty is death, objected to being identified as Indonesian citizens. "We are Portuguese citizens," they said.

Five East Timorese, all students, have gone on trial in Jakarta. Besides Araujo and da Camara, they are: **Agapito Cardoso, 25, Dominggus Bareto**, 29, and **Virgilio da Silva Guterres**, 26, who are charged with 'inciting hatred towards the government' which carries a maximum penalty of seven years.

Fernando de Araujo and Freitas da Camara are accused of having repeatedly spread hostility, hatred and insults against the Indonesian government and of having engaged in a series of activities "to stir up unrest or anxieties among the population and between the Indonesian state and other countries". Their political activities were subversive because they aimed to take East Timor out of the Indonesian Republic.

When Araujo was arrested in Bali last November, the security forces planted hand-grenades in his home, which suggested that he might face charges of armed insurrection. As far as is known, however, the indictment makes no mention of arms. The authorities are apparently satisfied that they can build a case of subversion simply on the grounds that he is anti-integration and has pursued political objectives aimed to win self-determination for East Timor.

Contacting the outside world

It is well known that the security authorities have been monitoring East Timorese activists in Java and Bali and tapping their phones for nearly two years. Much of the evidence used by the prosecution is based on phone-taps of calls both internal and with the outside world. Last February, an army intelligence document leaked abroad identified members of the East Timorese students' organisation, *Renetil*, among them two of the men now on trial, Fernando de Araujo and Agapito Cardoso. The document accused them of disseminating information to the outside world, contacting the International Red Cross or other groups "to send out information discrediting the Indonesian government and mobilising support", and sending information to foreign journalists or tourists. [See *TAPOL Bulletin*, No 105, June 1991]

In a submission to the UN Decolonisation Committee last August, Amnesty International said:

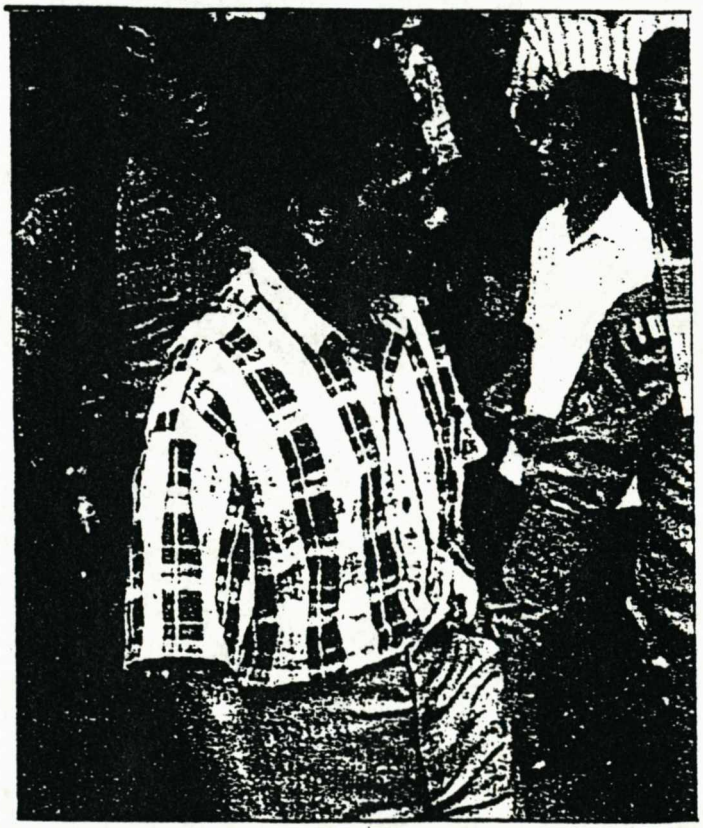
"...none of the student activities described in the document is unlawful and none involves the use or advocacy of violence. Especially disturbing is the fact that the activities considered threatening and worthy of investigation by military intelligence involve efforts to monitor and disseminate information about human rights and political questions."

The indictment against Fernando de Araujo focuses on his efforts to send out information about human rights abuses in East Timor. When intelligence officers opened fire at Motael Church, Dili, on 28 October, 1991 killing two persons, he was informed about this by phone from Dili and relayed the information to Freitas da Camara in Jakarta, asking him to pass it on to Carmel Budiardjo in London, "to gain the sympathy of the outside world because human rights violations had taken place in East Timor".

He is also accused of receiving information from a clandestine contact in Dili about plans to organise a demonstration in Dili on 12 November 1991 to coincide with a visit by a UN human rights envoy and a Mass for Sebastiao who was killed at Motael Church on 28 October.

He received information from clandestine sources in Dili about the massacre on 12 November and passed it on to the foreign press, foreign embassies in Jakarta and informed ACFOA in Australia and Amnesty in London.

Many of Fernando's contacts abroad are cited in the indictment – Geoff Robinson of Amnesty International, José Ramos-Horta and Alfredo Fereira, Timorese representatives in Australia, Luisa Teotonio Pereira of the Lisbon-based solidarity group CDPM, Estevao Cabral; a Timorese living in London, the London-based Catholic Institute of International Relations, and Carmel Budiardjo of TAPOL. In some instances, they are described as having donated money.



Fernando de Araujo escorted into the courtroom by security officers.